

### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method of assessing an encoded signal to determine whether a candidate format was used to arrange the signal into blocks before the encoding was done, the method comprising: using the Viterbi algorithm to determine trellis metrics for a point in said signal that would be an end point of a candidate block according to the candidate format; determining from said metrics the likelihood of occupation at said point of an end state of an encoding scheme used to create the encoded signal; decoding a part of said signal ending at said point; and performing a check using said decoded part to determine whether the candidate block satisfies an error protection scheme of the candidate format.